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"EVERY THING DEPENDS ON THE MANNER."

A TALE FROM THE SPANISH.

(Concluded from p. 100, No. II.)

MENDO could, with difficulty, close his eyes during the night, so much was his mind employed with the strange adventures of the preceding day. Scarcely had the morning dawned when he arose to examine his acquisitions, and in trying on the garments, he discovered that the pockets were (as has been before recounted) stuffed with doubloons and pistoles. As soon as the gates of the monastery were opened, he sallied forth to take a survey of the city, assuming at the same time, all the airs and gravity of a grandee. He was particularly desirous of meeting with his master in his new equipage; and what he so anxiously looked for soon happened according to his wishes. As soon as he perceived him, he affected not to notice him, and passed him by, with a careless air. This, however, did not prevent Lisidor from recognizing the features of his valet; his gait and manner could not deceive him, but the splendour of his dress stepped in to disconcert all his conjectures; he hesitated to approach him from an apprehension of being deceived: resemblances, he considered, were apt to mislead: besides, what probability was there that his servant, who, at best, could only save himself from the jaws of death, could in so short a time have been able to furnish himself so splendidly? While Lisidor was employed in these cogitations, Mendo approached him and saluted him, saying at the same time, "Pray, signior, are you a stranger, as your air bespeaks you to be? whence are you? whom are you in search of? and can I be of any service to you? The moment I first saw you, I felt myself interested in your favour, and am fortunately sufficiently independent to be able to assist you with my purse."

Lisidor recognized the voice of his domestic in the person who accosted him; but still the style of his address completely bewildered him. He thanked him for his offer of assistance, and informed him that he lived at a short distance from that place, where he requested him to favour him with his com-

pany. Mendo, who was not displeased to have an opportunity of knowing where his master resided, accepted of his invitation, and accompanied Lisidor to his lodging, which was plainly, though commodiously furnished. Lisidor on entering, cried out, "Holla, Mendo, place another cover on the table, here is a cavalier who does me the honour of dining with me." Saying this, he fixed his eyes on his servant, who on hearing his name pronounced by his master, could not avoid being disconcerted, and with tears in his eyes, he threw himself at his master's feet, and expressed in the liveliest manner the joy he felt at seeing him thus happily and quietly settled after his numerous accidents and disasters; Lisidor, far from reproaching him for his late whimsical behaviour, embraced him, saying, "In faith, Mendo, thou art so complete a fellow at masquerade, that even I, whom thou hast served so long a time, have with difficulty recognized thee, and been satisfied of thy identity; if thou canst play thy game as well in the capacity of an intriguer, as I ought to do, and in a circumstance in which I reckon upon thy support, I believe I may assure myself of complete success."

They recounted to each other all the accidents that happened to them since they had been separated. When Mendo related to his master the account of his nocturnal adventure, the state of Polydora's feelings immediately came into Lisidor's mind, and he formed the resolution of paying her a visit in the evening; for this purpose he instantly set about devising the means of advertising her of his intention. Polydora, on their meeting, was charmed at again beholding him, and hearing that the garments and money which she had reason to suppose she had put into bad hands, were faithfully restored to him; their conversation was full of the tenderest protestations of love, and their secret meetings were continued the following nights, till Lisidor was fully equipped for the character he intended to assume. When he had furnished himself with every thing requisite on the occasion, he proceeded to the house of Polydora's father, and being introduced to him, he said, that

having been informed of his rank and likewise of his great taste for articles of embroidery, he had brought some patterns of his own work; Polydora, who was present, requested her father to allow him to enter her apartment, that she might compare some of her own pieces with those of Lisidor. Her father, who little suspected that the French embroiderer was the very Venetian whom he was in search of, granted Polydora's request, so that she was enabled to enjoy the sight of her lover without any fear of being detected.

The examination of the respective merits of the works of Polydora and the embroiderer was conducted by her with much severity of scrutiny; she took occasion to ask him how certain flowers of a new pattern were wrought. Lisidor, on his part also, used all the artifices in his power to prolong the pleasure of being in her company. Polydora affected to be dissatisfied with his answer, and pretending an air of displeasure, *not* for the purpose of distressing him, but to give the more significance to what she intended to say, "Monsieur," said she, "I will cheerfully take some of your patterns, for which my father will reward you amply, provided you consent to come hither every second day and instruct me in the manner of working these flowers. I fancy I shall be able to learn in a short time, as what I know of the art has cost me but little trouble or time." Lisidor, who was aware that a ready compliance with her request might give rise to suspicion, affected to hesitate some time before he replied; at length in a respectful manner he said, "Madam, I would with pleasure do any thing in my power to be of service to you, but your present request might, if granted, be of serious injury to myself; you must be convinced, Madam, that if I should instruct you in the secrets of my art, and if the other ladies in the city should be inclined to learn it, in two years I might be without the means of gaining a livelihood, and must of course abandon my trade altogether." Polydora affecting to be still more displeased at this refusal, replied to him, "Then friend I do not want your patterns, since you are

unwilling to teach me to imitate them, I will not take from you what I shall not have it in my power to copy."

Her father who took notice of her displeasure at the refusal of the embroiderer, now joined in the conversation, and assured Lisidor that a frivolous apprehension of that nature should not operate with him. He pledged himself to inviolable secrecy provided he granted Polydora's request, and promised to reward him for his condescension beyond his expectations. At length, Lisidor by degrees allowed himself to be prevailed upon by the entreaties and promises of the old gentleman, and agreed to attend his pupil at the stipulated times. Behold him now enjoying all the opportunities a lover could desire, and by the interference of the father himself: his situation might be compared to that of a man afflicted with a tertian fever, with this difference, that with the sick man, the day on which he had to encounter the attack of the fever, was to him a day of trouble, the next was a day of repose; but with our embroiderer it was the contrary, the day of absence was to him a day of anxiety, while that day in which he was to see his mistress, seemed to him too slow in coming round.

During the period of their instruction, he had contrived to invent a mode of communicating their thoughts to each other, without encountering the hazard of being discovered by such of the domestics as were present. "Ah!" she would say to him, "when shall I finish this task, what trouble have I submitted to in undertaking it!" "Madam," Lisidor would answer in return, "I am as anxious as yourself, and I assure you I most sincerely wish you could finish it this day, as it would reflect the more credit on me, should you be successful in what you have undertaken. However, you must not be discouraged; what cannot be accomplished in one day, may come to pass in two or three, what you have begun is a task which requires much delicacy in the execution." The servants who heard them converse thus with each other, supposed that what they said referred to the employment in which they were occupied, while they thus, by an in-

nocent stratagem contrived to communicate to each other their most interesting secrets.

Lisidor was soon enabled by the generosity of Polydora and the munificence of her father, to acquit himself of the obligations he owed to his friend the merchant. Mendo too, contrived to accommodate himself to his present situation; he was the major-domo of his master; he lived well, slept still better, and passed the day in doing nothing; while his master, less happy than he, spent entire nights without sleep, was in a constant state of employment during the day time; eat but little and was continually harassed by a thousand distracting thoughts. If, on the one hand, the constancy and kindness of his mistress consoled him, on the other the implacable hatred of her father, and the severity of fortune, who continued to persecute him, blasted all his hopes.

Six months had now passed away in the manner above stated. Lisidor neglected nothing that might operate in giving the father of Polydora a prejudice in his favour, and thereby enable him to obtain a favourable hearing from him, in case he should propose a marriage with his daughter, and a discovery of his person; but the father's mind was occupied in a different manner. He had without her knowledge, promised his daughter to one of the most distinguished noblemen in Seville, who had seen her, and being charmed with her beauties, had demanded her in marriage.

Polydora had been applauding herself for the success of the stratagem which she had practised so long and with success, in keeping up a communication with her lover, when her father announced the honourable proposals of her distinguished lover, and so little dissimulation did she exert, in order to conceal her disgust to such an alliance, that she immediately confined herself to her chamber, refused to be seen, and assumed the habits of a mourner. Lisidor was soon informed by means of the domestics of the situation of his mistress; he presented himself at the door as usual, and the father of Polydora, in hopes that his conversation might serve to amuse her, and to remove that distress of mind

under which she laboured, ordered him to be admitted. Her first address to him on being presented to her was beseeching him to prepare some piece of embroidery preparatory to her funeral, as she felt that her death could not be far distant. On his entrance into her chamber, he affected tranquillity which was far from his heart, but the moment he beheld his mistress, on whose visage was painted the deepest affliction, he could no longer conceal the emotions of his mind. They did not fail to communicate to each other by the usual secret mode their feelings on the occasion, and at length Lisidor to prevent a discovery of the interest he took in the event which was likely to take place, was necessitated to quit her presence abruptly.

Mean time her father conjecturing, from the grief which she expressed, the violent repugnance she felt for the proposed marriage, determined to avail himself of every means to secure her consent; not having foreseen any resistance on her part, he had pledged himself to the Spanish nobleman in a manner so unequivocal that he knew not how to extricate himself from the affair but by sacrificing his daughter. He first endeavoured to prevail on her by entreaties and splendid promises; finding them ineffectual, he had recourse to reproaches, severity and threats. But nothing could shake her resolutions, and the resistance she offered to his measures drove him to a state of frenzy, that he at last drew forth a poignard and threatened her with instant death if she did not instantly consent to the promises which he had made in favour of her illustrious suitor. Polydora, overcome by terror, offered no farther opposition, and with a voice interrupted by tears and sighs, promised obedience to his wishes. She assured him that she entertained neither hatred nor aversion for the nobleman, and that her resistance arose from an indisposition which she could not explain, and which made her dread undertaking a situation in life which she could not support. Delighted at this answer, and regardless of the nature of her illness, he instantly went in search of her intended husband, and prepared every thing for the ensuing ceremony.

Polydora in yielding to the rigid commands of an angry father who was guided by her fears and apprehensions for the safety of her life, had she persisted in an obstinate resistance; but after every reflection she considered it the only measure she could have adopted under the circumstances in which she was involved; an extorted promise she considered as not binding on her conscience; she knew that the death of herself, as well as of Lisidor were certain, should she have persisted in a refusal, when he should be made acquainted with her tragical end: besides, could she be certain, that, situated as he then must be, without a wish for life, he would not previously sacrifice her father to his vengeance; her feigned assent to the mandates of her father afforded her an opportunity of considering of the means she should have recourse to in order to avoid the effects of the marriage; if such a name could, with propriety, be applied to a ceremony where there existed neither a reciprocity of affection nor a perfect freedom of will on both sides.

The fatal moment arrived when she was to offer herself as a sacrifice to paternal authority; the victim was already decked, and presented to the priest, who took for her consent an inarticulate *no*, which was uttered in a voice scarcely audible. She had taken care previously to inform Lisidor by letter, that so far from entering into this engagement voluntarily, she had only affected to go through the ceremony to gain time, and she besought him to lose not a moment in joining his efforts to hers, in order to prevent the effects of this pretended marriage. She proposed to feign herself dangerously ill, advertised him of the physicians, who she foresaw would be called in on the occasion, that he might gain them over to a concurrence in their scheme, until such times as they could proceed farther in the necessary measures.

Lisidor was punctual in the performance of all she requested; he prevailed on the two sons of Esculapius by presents, to promise an unqualified devotion to his will, and they were faithful to their promise, a thing, however, which was not very difficult in

the performance, as they were required to do no more than to affect a perfect knowledge of her complaint, to exaggerate the dangers of it, and in short, to do what they were every day accustomed to do, without being urged to it by bribes or presents.

Polydora mean time was not remiss in the part which she was to perform. On the evening of the day of the ceremony, she exhibited symptoms of illness, and acquitted herself so well, that on the following day it was deemed necessary to call in the advice of a physician. On his arrival he examined the patient, and with a countenance more serious than they had expected, expressed a wish to have the opinion of one of his brethren, on a subject of so delicate a nature. This second physician only echoed the opinion of the first, and after a long conversation together they concluded, by directing particularly, that the patient should be kept quiet, that she should not be allowed to hear or see any thing which might disturb her mind, and particularly, that she should be allowed to sleep and live by herself for a certain period.

Her husband, who was wholly unsuspecting of the scheme which the lovers were carrying on, submitted to these restrictions with much good nature, and consoled himself in the mean time, with the prospect of seeing her health completely restored. During the whole transaction he exhibited more tenderness and affection to her, than the father who had forced her into a connection to which she had evinced a most violent repugnance. The unfortunate father mean time now began to feel all the stings and reproaches of conscience, which the severe treatment he had inflicted on his daughter so well deserved. The physicians attended every day, and made the regularity of their visits appear still more necessary; they occasionally dropped some obscure hints as to the dangers which usually attended the complaint. The husband was alarmed, but the father who now called to mind what his daughter had told him relative to the indisposition under which she laboured, felt the full force of their hints; he apprehended that his daugh-

ter was attacked by some complaint which must gradually undermine her constitution; he reproached himself for having involved her in this situation against her inclinations, and he bitterly regretted the violence he had used; he slept no longer, he refused every kind of sustenance, and to these disadvantages was added a violent fever, which undermined the remnant of his enfeebled frame; he lived but three weeks, during which time he frequently acknowledged that the only circumstance which distressed his mind, was the idea of having married his daughter contrary to her inclination.

The cruelty of her father did not prevent the tears of Polydora from flowing; the lively grief which she felt for his death, assisted her in performing the part of an invalid: she then gave orders for a splendid funeral, and contrived to send private information to Lisidor to come to her secretly. He obeyed the summons immediately, and providing himself with weapons for fear of danger; he hastened to Polydora, whose chamber he contrived to gain unperceived. She had the precaution to dismiss her attendants, under the pretence of allowing them to repose, and prepare themselves for undergoing the fatigues which she feared would be required of them at the crisis of her complaint.

This was, it may be imagined, of the tenderest kind, but as the time was precious, it was necessary to employ it in concerting measures for extricating her from her captivity; "You are not married," said Lisidor, "your withholding your consent has invalidated the engagements; but whatever tribunal should decide in your favour, the process would take up an incalculable length of time, during which time you must be immured in a convent to await a decision, which, in the event may not be favourable to our wishes, and at the best must be a distant prospect. To fly would be attended with numerous perils. Where could you hope to be secured from the search of one possessed of the consequence and power of your husband? and what would not your reputation be exposed to, by such an act? Let me then propose to you a more secure

method of disengaging yourself from your present embarrassments. I have brought hither with me a powder, whose property is to suspend the animal functions during the period of twenty-four hours, and to produce a lethargy, which shall exactly resemble in appearance all the symptoms of death. Two or three days previous to using this powder, you shall feign a gradual increase of your malady, so as to persuade the domestics into a belief of your death. When the powder shall have taken effect, after swallowing it you can avail yourself of the two or three remaining hours, in which you will be left at liberty to dispose of your effects by will, you will give orders to be interred in the cathedral, and afterwards it shall be my care to bring the affair to a happy conclusion."

The idea of being buried alive caused Polydora to shudder from an apprehension which she could not subdue nor explain. "Dear Lisidor," she replied, "consider carefully what you propose, how easy it is to commit an error as to the quantity or quality of the ingredients in mixtures of this kind? how frequently have trials of this sort terminated fatally? for myself I entertain no apprehensions; should I perish, I forfeit an existence which would be intolerable to me if deprived of your society, but I dread the effects of your despair. Should I unfortunately perish under the effects of the potion, what dreadful remorse must agitate your bosom! Lisidor, however, was too certain of the efficacy of the medicine, and at length prevailed over the fears of his mistress. She punctually followed the directions given to her by Lisidor, in two days she exhibited all the symptoms of dreadful agony, with such appearance of reality, that her goodnatured husband called in two other physicians to her assistance, who were equally surprised and puzzled at the situation of their patient: though without any symptoms of fever, they nevertheless judged that there remained within her some consuming heat, which would only terminate in her death, and from the appearances she indicated, she had not two days to live; an opinion, which almost provoked a smile in their pati-

ent, who observed with what simplicity they fell into the snare. She immediately made her will, in which she testified to her husband, by her generous donation to him, that so far from entertaining any dislike to him, she felt a kind of regret at not having a heart which she could tender to him. She also left a considerable sum to be employed in pious purposes, and disposed of a part of her estate in favour of a sister, who still remained at Venice.

The powder was taken at the appointed moment, Polydora uttered a dreadful shriek, which aroused the whole family, but she was found apparently expiring; the physicians were immediately sent for; mean time a priest was roused from the neighbouring monastery, but on his arrival she was incapable of speaking. The physicians too judged her case to be so desperate as to render any farther applications unnecessary, and they departed, not, however, without bestowing much credit on themselves for having predicted so accurately the moment of her dissolution.

The funeral ceremony was performed the same day; the body was conveyed to the cathedral, from which it was immediately afterwards removed, by Lisidor (assisted by faithful Mendo and the sexton, whom he had found means to gain over by a present) out of the vault in which she was deposited. Afterwards the vault was carefully closed up, and every thing left in the usual order.

A little after midnight the powder ceased to operate, and Polydora on recovering her senses, found herself situated in a strange apartment. Her head was confused by a thousand indistinct images, which had crowded on her mind, as the effects of the potion had begun to operate; but these distressing sensations gradually gave way to those of a more pleasing nature, on beholding her lover, and being assured by him of her perfect restoration to liberty. He had the precaution to provide her with two female attendants, on whose fidelity he could rely; he instantly procured her some nourishment to recruit her frame after so long an abstinence, and though she did not stand in need of sleep, his delicacy obliged him to leave

her in company with her attendants during the remainder of the night. It was now only necessary for Lisidor to obtain a power from Venice of receiving the legacy left to the sister, and to be enabled to dispose of it. In fact the sister was only a fictitious person whom Polydora had introduced into the underplot, in order to forward her designs.

The husband, who was fully satisfied with his lot, opposed no obstacles in the way of the sister's claim. Lisidor soon procured a vessel preparing to set sail for Venice, bid adieu to the widower (who consoled himself with the prospect of marrying again) and with a favourable wind departed with Polydora and Mendo, leaving the two females in his house, with provisions enough to support them till their pretended return. They arrived at length without any accident, at Venice, where they were immediately married, and tasted in each other's society all the sweets which the tenderest love is capable of inspiring in two hearts whom fortune had for a long time found pleasure in persecuting.

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*On the Oriental Emigration of the Irish Druids.....Proved from their knowledge in Astronomy, collated with that of the Indians and Chaldeans. From fragments of Irish MSS. By Lieutenant General Vallancey, L.L.D. F.R.S.M.R.I.A. &c.*

(Continued from p. 111, No. 11.)

CHAP. III.

CYCLES.....NIGHT, DAY.

THE smallest cycle of the Iberian Druids was that of the apparent daily revolution of the sun, reckoning from sunset to sunset.

This they termed *lilai*, from *liladh*, to turn round, to turn any way; as *go ros lil*, from the beginning of that turn or day, from thence forward; *roril an foairinn dhe*, they turned his name, i.e. they gave him a nick-name; and hence *lile*, the flower called *turn-cap lily*; and *litam*, I pursued closely, through windings and turnings, round and about.

*Lilai* was at length corrupted to *la*, *li*, *lavi*, a day; plural, *lavina* and